REMARKS/ARGUMENTS

Claims 34-45 stand in the present application, claim 34 having been amended. Reconsideration and favorable action is respectfully requested in view of the above amendments and the following remarks.

The Examiner has rejected claims 34, 36, 37,39 and 45 under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Liao in view of Zulch, has rejected claims 35 and 41 under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Liao and Zulch in view of Skeen, has rejected claim 34, 36, 37,39 and 45 under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Liao in view of Zulch, has rejected claim 40 under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Liao and Zulch in view of Weng, has rejected claims 42 and 44 under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Liao and Zulch in view of Chomet, and has rejected claim 43 under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Liao, Zulch, Skeen and Chomet in view of Wheeler. Applicants respectfully traverse the Examiner's 103 rejections of the claims.

Claim 34 has been amended to more clearly recite that Applicants' claimed inventions relate to a method in which the size of index announcement messages in a publish-subscribe architecture is reduced, the effect being to save network bandwidth. This claim feature is described in detail on page 14, line 33 to page 16, line 18 of the present specification.

The Examiner asserts that Liao and Zulch are in the same technical field. Applicants respectfully disagree. While Liao at least relates to a publisher-subscriber distribution model, Zulch is clearly concerned with the unrelated field of archiving large

sets of data and indeed the USPTO classification is 395/425 whereas for the claimed invention it is 709/207.

It is an unacceptable application of hindsight analysis to say that the two documents can be readily combined because they deal with the broad and vague field of "formatting data." The skilled person would not have arrived at this conclusion. In any case, the combination of Liao and Zulch fails to arrive at the amended claims. In particular, there is no teaching of the size reduction processing. Even if the path and filename aspects of the Liao system could be mapped as the first and second sub-parts of the thread identifiers as asserted by the Examiner, following this incorrect mapping of features, Liao does not suggest performing processing on the filenames (the second sub-parts as asserted by the Examiner) at all, let alone the specific processing to reduce the size of the index announcement message as now more clearly required by the present claims.

The passage relied upon in Zulch merely states; "After each segment is written, the separate and resident archive directory of the device being archived is updated with only the unique portion of the directory chain and the specific unique identifier information for the discrete file archived." The term "separate and resident archive directory" is not even used in the rest of the description and so it is unclear how the skilled person could take such a passage and apply it to Liao without hindsight knowledge of the claimed invention. This passage appears to deal with the section on columns 9 to 17 under the heading "Archiving" and in particular with the archive catalogs (also referred to as indexes) as referenced by R1, R2, R3. These archives

provide an index of files stored on the archive device and as quoted on column 9, lines 23 to 45, the archive catalog is updated after an archiving operation with a new session tree describing the location of files on the archive device. Zulch concerns an improvement in the robustness of the archive operation to handle the consistency of the data on the destination such as failure of the medium, unexpected filling the destination medium, user cancellation and failure of the source device to be able to completely read a file.

Aside from the different classification, it is clear throughout the description that Zulch is concerned with data archiving and the Examiner cannot simply ignore this consistent teaching of the document to take a vague passage in the summary of invention and apply it out of context onto the claim. If the Examiner still considers this not to be persuasive, a fully reasoned statement explaining this position would be appreciated.

In any case, Zulch does not teach the features missing from Liao. In Zulch, there is one archive catalog per archive and there is no processing to compare one archive catalog with another archive catalog. It would be illogical to do so since they would relate to different archives. Further to this omission, there is no teaching of sending only part of the archive catalog in a message.

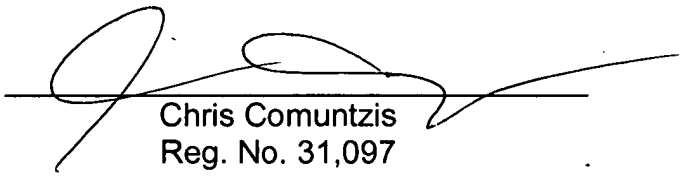
At most, the combination of Liao and Zulch would result in an improvement to the "catch-up session" processing described in Liao. Even if combined, neither document teaches processing the second sub parts of the index announcement message to reduce the size of the index announcement message as in the claimed invention.

Accordingly, independent claim 34 and its dependent claims 35-45 patentably define over Liao and Zulch taken singularly or in combination. Moreover, it is respectfully submitted that the secondary citations to Skeen, Weng, Chomet and Wheeler do not solve the deficiencies of the primary references as discussed above.

Therefore, in view of the above amendments and remarks, it is respectfully requested that the application be reconsidered and that all of claims 34-45, standing in the application, be allowed and that the case be passed to issue. If there are any other issues remaining which the Examiner believes could be resolved through either a supplemental response or an Examiner's amendment, the Examiner is respectfully requested to contact the undersigned at the local telephone exchange indicated below.

Respectfully submitted,

NIXON & VANDERHYE P.C.

By: 

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